(tyres differ from company to company. Different tyre companies have increased the prices of various types of tyres manufactured by them at different times and also allowed substantial discounts on prices during the period which have not been fully reflected in the market prices.

Tyres are not subject to any price or distribution control. However, a close watch is being maintained by the Government over prices of tyres as well as their raw materials.

Lohia scooter

647. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: *i*

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Lohia scooters have been increased disproportionately beyond the market price estimated originally;

(b) if so, what was the original price per scooter and what is its present market price;

(c) to what specific factors such abnormal rise in prices is attributable; and

(d) whether any,steps are contem plated to bring this high fuel effi ciency scooter within the reach of the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) The ex-factory price of Lohia Scooter excluding excise duty increased from Rs. 9,600 t_0 its present level of Rs. 11,355 on 9-9-84. According to the information furnished by the company, the increase in prices has taken place on account of the following factors:

(i) Escalation in the cost of imported components used in the scooter, on account of fluctuation in currency rates, and

. (ii) Increase in the prices of inputs like steel, aluminium, non-ferrous metals, tyres, etc.

(d) Government have licensed sufficient capacity and built up in production capability of various makes of two-wheelers generating a situation in the market where two-wheelers are likely to be easily available at competitive prices.

Liberalisation of industry

648. SHRIMATI SUSHILA RO-HATGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently taken some measures for the liberalisation of industry; and

(b) whether some quarters have expressed doubts that this may indirectly affect the location policy and lead to concentration of industry in easily accessible areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Government have recently announced certain liberalisations which include broadbanding in certain industries within the same capacity raising the Limit of small scale to Rs. 35 lakhs,upward revision of the thrash-hold limit for MRTP companies from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 100 crores and de-licensing of certain selected industries. This policy is not likely to affect the locational policy. Further in regard to the scheme of de-licensing it has been specifically provided that the industrial undertaking should not be located within the standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs or within the municipal limit of a city having a population of more than 5 lakhs.

Elections in Punjab and Assam

649. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTI-RAM PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to hold elections in the States of pun-